

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method performed by a computer for developing an acquisition integration project plan outlining at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and providing information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration including assimilating an acquiring entity with an acquisition target including at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, ~~the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing a pre due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

automatically displaying on the computer, ~~prior to performing the pre due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user, the plurality of integration areas include ~~at least one of~~ commercial, operational, human resources, legal and financial;

automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon ~~at least one~~ the user selected integration area areas, each pre-defined integration event being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types, each of the plurality of pre-defined integration events are automatically selectable as a required integration event to be performed as part of the integration for the specific type of acquisition being performed;

displaying on the computer a detailed explanation for each pre-defined integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and

~~at least one~~ a sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the ~~at least one~~ sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration, the detailed explanations are viewable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user;

developing an acquisition integration project plan for the specific acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one pre-defined integration event for the each user selected integration area, ~~each selected pre-defined integration event being performed as part of the specific acquisition integration, the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing the pre-due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ the acquisition integration project plan includes the user selected integration events and the automatically selected integration events to be performed as part of the acquisition including the integration events to be performed during the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the post sign/pre-close phase of the acquisition process, the post close phase of the acquisition process, and the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process, the acquisition integration project plan outlines the integration events to be performed in a recommended sequential order from the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process through the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process;

~~receiving the at least one user selected, pre-defined integration event for each user selected integration area;~~

~~displaying the user selected, pre-defined integration events for each user selected integration area;~~

displaying ~~at least one of~~ a name of a person responsible, a due date, a completion percentage, and a commentary for each user selected, pre-defined integration event and each automatically selected, pre-defined integration event; and

storing the user selected and the automatically selected, ~~pre-defined~~ integration events and ~~at least one of~~ the name of a person responsible, the due date, the completion percentage, and the commentary for each ~~user selected, pre-defined~~ integration event into corresponding integration areas, as the acquisition integration project plan.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving user defined integration events for the integration project;

displaying user defined integration events for the integration project; and

storing the user defined integration events within the acquisition integration project plan.

4. (original) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said step of storing the user defined integration events comprises the step of storing the user defined integration events as corresponding to at least one user defined integration area.

5. (original) A method according to Claim 4 further comprising the step of forwarding the user defined integration areas and user defined integration events to a system administrator for inclusion into the pre-defined integration areas and pre-defined integration events.

6. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the acquisition integration project plan is stored in at least one of a spreadsheet format and a web page format.

7. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the step of displaying a detailed explanation for each pre-defined integration event further comprises enabling a user to

update the advice for performing an integration event and the at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event during an acquisition process.

8. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying, without being entered by the user, a deliverable checklist for each integration event.

9. (currently amended) A computer for developing an acquisition integration project plan outlining at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and providing information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration including assimilating an acquiring entity with an acquisition target including at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, ~~the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing a pre-due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ said computer programmed to:

automatically display a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user, the plurality of integration areas include commercial, operational, human resources, legal and financial;

~~automatically display, prior to performing the pre-due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon ~~at least one~~ the user selected integration ~~area areas~~, each pre-defined integration event being associated with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types including at least one of a variety of companies and assets being acquired, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user, each of the plurality of pre-defined integration events are automatically selectable as a required integration event to be performed as part of the integration for the specific type of acquisition being performed;

display a detailed explanation for each pre-defined integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and ~~at least one~~ a sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the ~~at least one~~ sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration, the detailed explanations are viewable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user;

develop an acquisition integration project plan for the specific acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one pre-defined integration event for the each user selected integration area, ~~each selected pre-defined integration event being performed as part of the specific acquisition integration, the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing the pre-due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ the acquisition integration project plan includes the user selected integration events and the automatically selected integration events to be performed as part of the acquisition including the integration events to be performed during the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the post sign/pre-close phase of the acquisition process, the post close phase of the acquisition process, and the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process, the acquisition integration project plan outlines the integration events to be performed in a recommended sequential order from the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process through the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process;

~~display at least one user selected, pre-defined integration event for each user selected integration area;~~

display ~~at least one of~~ a name of a person responsible, a due date, a completion percentage, and a commentary for each user selected, pre-defined integration event and each automatically selected, pre-defined integration event; and

store the user selected and automatically selected, ~~pre-defined~~ integration events and the name of a person responsible, the due date, the completion percentage, and the commentary for each integration event into corresponding integration areas as an acquisition integration project plan.

10. (original) A computer according to Claim 9 further programmed to:

display user defined integration events for the integration project; and

store the user defined integration events within the acquisition integration project plan.

11. (original) A computer according to Claim 10 further programmed to store the user defined integration events as corresponding to at least one user defined integration area.

12. (original) A computer according to Claim 11 further programmed to forward the user defined integration areas and user defined integration events to a system administrator for inclusion into the pre-defined integration areas and pre-defined integration events.

13. (original) A computer according to Claim 9 further programmed to store the acquisition integration project plan in at least one of a spreadsheet format and a web page format.

14. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 9 further programmed to enable a user to update the advice for performing an integration event and the at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event during an acquisition process.

15. (original) A computer according to Claim 9 further programmed to display a deliverable checklist for each integration event.

16.-23. (canceled)



24. (currently amended) A system for developing an acquisition integration project plan outlining at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and providing information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration including assimilating an acquiring entity with an acquisition target including at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, ~~the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing a pre due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ said system comprising:

a client system comprising a browser;

~~a database for storing data comprising data corresponding to integration events for at least one integration area wherein each integration event is associated with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, said database further comprising data corresponding to a detailed explanation of each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the at least one sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration;~~ and

~~a server configured to be coupled to said client system and said database, said server further configured programmed to:~~

~~automatically display on said client system, prior to performing the pre due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user and are not

entered into the system by the user, the plurality of integration areas include ~~at least one of~~ commercial, operational, human resources, legal and financial;

automatically display on said client system a plurality of integration events based upon at ~~least one~~ the user selected integration area areas, each integration event being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the plurality of integration events are menu selections selectable by the user and are not entered into the system by the user, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types, each of the plurality of integration events are automatically selectable as a required integration event to be performed as part of the integration for the specific type of acquisition being performed;

display on said client system ~~the~~ a detailed explanation for each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and a sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration, the detailed explanations are viewable by the user and are not entered into the computer by the user;

develop an acquisition integration project plan for the specific acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one integration event for the each user selected integration area, ~~each selected pre-defined integration event being performed as part of the specific acquisition integration, the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing the pre-due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ the acquisition integration project plan includes the user selected integration events and the automatically selected integration events to be performed as part of the acquisition including



the integration events to be performed during the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the post sign/pre-close phase of the acquisition process, the post close phase of the acquisition process, and the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process, the acquisition integration project plan outlines the integration events to be performed in a recommended sequential order from the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process through the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process;

~~receive the at least one user selected integration event for each user selected integration area;~~

~~display on said client system the selected integration events for each selected integration area;~~

display on said client system ~~at least one of~~ a name of a person responsible, a due date, a completion percentage, and a commentary for each user selected integration event and each automatically selected integration event; and

store in the database the user selected and automatically selected integration events and ~~at least one of~~ the name of a person responsible, the due date, the completion percentage, and the commentary for each ~~selected~~ integration event into corresponding integration areas, as an acquisition integration project plan.

25. (original) A system according to Claim 24 wherein said database further comprises data corresponding to at least one of a name of a person responsible, a completion percentage, a due date, and a commentary for each integration event.

26. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 24 wherein said database further comprises data corresponding to an overview of acquisition integration, and feedback received from users.

27. (original) A system according to Claim 24 wherein said database further comprises data corresponding to at least one of a deliverables checklist for each integration area and headings for integration events within an integration area of at least one of pre-due diligence, due diligence, post sign/pre-close, post close, and transition to operations.

28. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 24 wherein said server is configured to cause a screen listing a plurality of integration areas to be displayed at the client system.

29. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 28 wherein for an integration area, said server is configured to cause said client system to display a plurality of integration events for the integration area.

30. (original) A system according to Claim 29 wherein the integration events are sorted under headings comprising pre-due diligence, due diligence, post sign/pre-close, post close, and transition to operations.

31. (original) A system according to Claim 24 wherein said server is configured to cause a screen listing a plurality of deliverables checklists for an integration area.

32. (currently amended) A method for developing an acquisition integration project plan outlining at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and providing information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration including assimilating an acquiring entity with an acquisition target including at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, ~~the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing a pre-due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

~~automatically displaying on an electronic interface, prior to performing the pre-due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type

of asset being acquired, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user, the plurality of integration areas include ~~at least one of~~ commercial, operational, human resources, legal and financial;

selecting, from the electronic interface, at least one of the plurality of integration areas;

automatically displaying on an electronic interface a plurality of integration events based on the ~~at least one~~ user selected integration area areas, each integration event being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the plurality of integration events are menu selections selectable by the user, the plurality of integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types, each of the plurality of integration events are automatically selectable as a required integration event to be performed as part of the integration for the specific type of acquisition being performed;

identifying, from the electronic interface, a responsible person responsible for each integration area;

identifying, from the electronic interface, at least one of a person responsible and a due date for each integration event within an integration area;

requesting, from the electronic interface, a percentage completion for each integration event;

requesting, from the electronic interface, a detailed explanation for an integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and ~~at least one~~ a sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining the percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the ~~at least one~~ sample presentation

includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration; and

developing an acquisition integration project plan for the specific acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one integration event for the each user selected integration area, ~~each selected integration event being performed as part of the specific acquisition integration, the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing the pre-due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ the acquisition integration project plan includes the user selected integration events and the automatically selected integration events to be performed as part of the acquisition including the integration events to be performed during the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the post sign/pre-close phase of the acquisition process, the post close phase of the acquisition process, and the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process, the acquisition integration project plan outlines the integration events to be performed in a recommended sequential order from the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process through the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process.

33. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 32 wherein the integration areas comprise business leader, integration manager, due diligence leader, sales/marketing, sourcing, customer services, collections, manufacturing, engineering, environmental health and safety, services, risk management, six sigma, information technology, communication, human resources strategy, human resources labor relations, human resources employee benefits, human resources compensation, controllership, legal, intellectual property, treasury, Euro program, financial planning, closing reporting, tax integration, and insurance.

34. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 32 further comprising the step of using the electronic interface to update the advice for performing an integration event and the at least one sample presentation relating to the integration event during an acquisition process.

35. (original) A method according to Claim 32 further comprising the step of attaching to an integration event, using the electronic interface, at least one sample presentation.

36. (original) A method according to Claim 32 further comprising the step of requesting, from the electronic interface, a deliverables checklist for an integration area.

37. (original) A method according to Claim 32 further comprising the step of entering, into the electronic interface, comments regarding an acquisition integration.

38. (currently amended) Apparatus for developing an acquisition integration project plan outlining at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and providing information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration including assimilating an acquiring entity with an acquisition target including at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, ~~the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing a pre-due diligence on the acquisition target~~, said apparatus comprising:

means for automatically displaying on a computer, ~~prior to performing the pre-due diligence on the acquisition target~~, a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user, the plurality of integration areas include ~~at least one of~~ commercial, operational, human resources, legal and financial;

means for automatically displaying on the computer a plurality of integration events for the user selected integration areas, each integration event being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the plurality of integration events are menu selections selectable by the user, the plurality of integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types, each of the plurality of integration events are

automatically selectable as a required integration event to be performed as part of the integration for the specific type of acquisition being performed;

means for displaying on the computer a detailed explanation for each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and ~~at least one~~ a sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the ~~at least one~~ sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration; and

means for developing an integration acquisition project plan using the user selected and the automatically selected integration events, ~~each selected integration event being performed as part of the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing the pre due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ the acquisition integration project plan includes the user selected integration events and the automatically selected integration events to be performed as part of the acquisition including the integration events to be performed during the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the post sign/pre-close phase of the acquisition process, the post close phase of the acquisition process, and the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process, the acquisition integration project plan outlines the integration events to be performed in a recommended sequential order from the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process through the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process.

39. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 38 further comprising means for displaying a plurality of sub-events for an integration event.

40. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 38 further comprising means for displaying a name of a person responsible for each integration area.



41. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 38 further comprising means for displaying an explanation for a selected integration event.

42. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 38 further comprising means for displaying sample presentations from other integration projects.

43. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 42 wherein the sample presentations are files stored within said apparatus.

44. (currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for developing an acquisition integration project plan and for managing acquisition integration to achieve acquisition synergies, customer satisfaction and operational excellence, acquisition integration including assimilating an acquiring entity with an acquisition target including at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, ~~the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing a pre due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ said computer program comprising a code segment that:

~~automatically displays on the computer, prior to performing the pre due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ a plurality of integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user, the plurality of integration areas include ~~at least one of~~ commercial, operational, human resources, legal and financial;

automatically displays on the computer integration events associated with each user selected integration area areas, each integration event associated with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types, the integration events are menu selections selectable by the user, the plurality of integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types, each of the

plurality of integration events are automatically selectable as a required integration event to be performed as part of the integration for the specific type of acquisition being performed;

displays on the computer a detailed explanation for each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and ~~at least one~~ a sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the ~~at least one~~ sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration; and

develops an acquisition integration plan for the specific acquisition integration including a set of integration events and deliverable checklists ~~based on user selected integration areas by prompting the user to select from the display at least one integration event for the each user selected integration area, to guide the user through integration process, the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing the pre due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ the acquisition integration project plan includes the user selected integration events and the automatically selected integration events to be performed as part of the acquisition including the integration events to be performed during the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the post sign/pre-close phase of the acquisition process, the post close phase of the acquisition process, and the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process, the acquisition integration project plan outlines the integration events to be performed in a recommended sequential order from the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process through the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process.

45. (original) A computer program according to Claim 44 further comprising a code segment that allows the user to enter names of persons responsible, percentage completions, due dates, and comments for each integration event.

46. (original) A computer program according to Claim 44 further comprising a code segment that manages records pertaining to explanations for each integration event.

47. (original) A computer program according to Claim 44 further comprising a code segment that manages records pertaining to sample presentations for at least one integration event.

48. (original) A computer program according to Claim 44 further comprising a code segment that manages records pertaining to an overview of acquisition integration.

49. (original) A computer program according to Claim 44 further comprising a code segment that manages records pertaining to feedback received from users.

50. (original) A computer program according to Claim 44 further comprising a code segment that manages records pertaining to a deliverables checklist for at least one integration area.

51. (canceled)

52. (original) A computer program according to Claim 44 wherein the data is received from the user via a graphical user interface.

53. (currently amended) A computer program according to Claim 44 further comprising a code segment that generates acquisition integration plan based on pre-stored assumptions in ~~the~~ a database.

54. (currently amended) A computer program according to Claim 44 further comprising a code segment that displays information through ~~an HTML document~~ a web page downloaded by ~~the~~ a server system.

55. (currently amended) A computer program according to Claim 44 further comprising a code segment that:

accesses ~~the centralized~~ a database;

searches the database regarding the specific inquiry;

retrieves information from the database; and

causes the retrieved information to be displayed on the ~~client system~~ computer.

56. (canceled)

57. (canceled)

58. (currently amended) A method for operating a computer to develop an acquisition integration project plan outlining at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and providing information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration including assimilating an acquiring entity with an acquisition target including at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, ~~the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing a pre due diligence on the acquisition target~~, said method comprising the steps of:

~~prompting a user, prior to performing the pre due diligence on the acquisition target~~, to select an integration area from an acquisition integration main user interface by automatically displaying a plurality of integration areas on the acquisition integration main interface, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by the user, the plurality of integration areas include ~~at least one of~~ commercial, operational, human resources, legal and financial;

automatically displaying on the computer a set of user selectable and automatically selectable integration events for the user selected integration ~~area~~ areas, each integration event being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the integration events are menu selections selectable by the user,

the integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types, each of the integration events are automatically selectable as a required integration event to be performed as part of the integration for a specific type of acquisition being performed;

displaying on the computer a detailed explanation for each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and ~~at least one~~ a sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the ~~at least one~~ sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration; and

developing an acquisition integration project plan for the acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one integration event for the each user selected integration area, ~~each selected integration event being performed as part of the specific acquisition integration, the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing the pre-due diligence on the acquisition target, the~~ acquisition integration project plan includes the user selected integration events and the automatically selected integration events to be performed as part of the acquisition including the integration events to be performed during the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the post sign/pre-close phase of the acquisition process, the post close phase of the acquisition process, and the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process, the acquisition integration project plan outlines the integration events to be performed in a recommended sequential order from the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process through the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process.

59. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 58 wherein the acquisition integration project plan further incorporates integration sub-events for one of the integration events.

60. (original) A method according to Claim 58 further comprising the step of displaying a name of a person responsible for the selected integration area.

61. (original) A method according to Claim 58 wherein said step of displaying a set of selectable integration events further comprises the step of providing a user interface which includes an explanation for a selected integration event.

62. (original) A method according to Claim 61 wherein the explanation for a selected integration event comprises sample presentations from other acquisition integration projects.

63. (original) A method according to Claim 62 wherein the sample presentations are files stored within the computer.

64. (original) A method according to Claim 58 wherein each selectable integration event is displayed under at least one of a plurality of headings, the headings comprising at least one of pre-due diligence, due diligence, post sign/pre-close, post close, and transition to operations.

65. (original) A method according to Claim 58 wherein said step of prompting a user to select an integration area comprises the step of displaying an integration area list which comprises at least one of business leader, integration manager, due diligence leader, sales/marketing, E-commerce, customer services, collections, manufacturing, engineering, logistics, environmental health and safety, services, risk management, six sigma, information technology, communication, culture, human resources (HR) strategy, HR labor relations, HR employee benefits, HR compensation, HR employment practices, payroll benefits, expatriate administration, travel and living expenses, legal, intellectual property, compliance, treasury, Euro program, financial planning, closing reporting, tax integration, controllership and insurance.



66. (currently amended) A computer for developing an acquisition integration project plan outlining at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and providing information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration including assimilating an acquiring entity with an acquisition target including at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, ~~the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing a pre-due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ said computer programmed to:

~~prompt a user, prior to performing the pre-due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ to select an integration area from a computer generated screen configured as an acquisition integration main user interface by automatically displaying on the acquisition integration main user interface a plurality of integration areas, the plurality of integration areas are menu selections selectable by a user, the plurality of integration areas include ~~at least one of~~ commercial, operational, human resources, legal and financial;

automatically display on the computer a set of selectable integration events for the selected integration area, each integration event being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the integration events are menu selections selectable by the user, the integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types, each of the integration events are automatically selectable as a required integration event to be performed as part of the integration for a specific type of acquisition being performed;

display on the computer a detailed explanation for each integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and ~~at least one~~ a sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the ~~at least one~~ sample presentation includes an

attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition integration; and

develop an acquisition integration project plan by prompting the user to select from the display at least one integration event for the user selected integration areas, ~~each selected integration event being performed as part of the specific acquisition integration, the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing the pre due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ the acquisition integration project plan includes the user selected integration events and the automatically selected integration events to be performed as part of the acquisition including the integration events to be performed during the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the post sign/pre-close phase of the acquisition process, the post close phase of the acquisition process, and the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process, the acquisition integration project plan outlines the integration events to be performed in a recommended sequential order from the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process through the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process.

67. (original) A computer according to Claim 66 further programmed to incorporate integration sub-events for one or more of the integration events within the integration project plan.

68. (original) A computer according to Claim 66 wherein for an integration area, said computer displays a computer generated screen with a name of a person responsible for the selected integration area.

69. (original) A computer according to Claim 66 wherein for a selected integration event, said computer is programmed to display a computer generated screen providing the user with an explanation of the selected integration event.

70. (original) A computer according to Claim 69 wherein the explanation for an integration event comprises sample presentations from other integration projects.

71. (original) A computer according to Claim 70 wherein said sample presentations are files stored within said computer.

72. (original) A computer according to Claim 66 wherein to display selectable integration events, said computer displays a computer generated screen listing the selectable integration events under headings comprising at least one of pre-due diligence, due diligence, post sign/pre-close, post close, and transition to operations.

73. (original) A computer according to Claim 66 configured with an integration area list which comprises at least one of business leader, integration manager, due diligence leader, sales/marketing, E-commerce, customer services, collections, manufacturing, engineering, logistics, environmental health and safety, services, risk management, six sigma, information technology, communication, culture, human resources (HR) strategy, HR labor relations, HR employee benefits, HR compensation, HR employment practices, payroll benefits, expatriate administration, travel and living expenses, legal, intellectual property, compliance, treasury, Euro program, financial planning, closing reporting, tax integration, controllership and insurance.

74. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium for developing an acquisition integration project plan outlining at least one process for performing an acquisition integration and providing information to perform the acquisition integration, the acquisition integration including assimilating an acquiring entity with an acquisition target including at least one of a newly acquired company and a newly acquired asset including a portfolio, ~~the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing a pre due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ said computer-readable medium executable by a computer for controlling the computer to:

~~automatically display on the computer, prior to performing the pre due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ a plurality of pre-defined integration areas to be selected by a user based on a type of acquisition being performed including at least one of a type of company and a type of asset being acquired, the plurality of pre-defined integration areas are menu selections selectable

by the user, the plurality of integration areas include ~~at least one of~~ commercial, operational, human resources, legal and financial;

~~receive user selections of pre-defined integration areas;~~

automatically display on the computer a plurality of pre-defined integration events based upon the user selected integration areas, each pre-defined integration event being displayed in association with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are menu selections selectable by the user, the plurality of pre-defined integration events are associated with a variety of acquisition types, each of the plurality of pre-defined integration events are automatically selectable as a required integration event to be performed as part of the integration for the specific type of acquisition being performed;

~~receive user selections of pre-defined integration events for the selected integration areas, each integration event is associated with a phase in an acquisition process including a pre-due diligence phase, a due diligence phase, a post sign/pre-close phase, a post close phase, and a transition to operations phase;~~

display on the computer a detailed explanation for each selected pre-defined integration event including a description of the integration event, advice for performing the integration event, and ~~at least one~~ a sample presentation relating to the integration event, the description facilitates determining a percentage of completion of the integration event, the advice is based on prior acquisition integrations and provides guidance to a person responsible for performing the integration event on how to accomplish the integration event, the ~~at least one~~ sample presentation includes an attached file including data previously presented by the acquiring entity as part of a prior acquisition processes integration; and

develop an acquisition integration plan for the specific acquisition integration by prompting the user to select from the display at least one integration event for each ~~with the user~~

selected, pre-defined integration areas area, and ~~integration events for a planned acquisition, the acquisition integration project plan is developed prior to performing the acquisition including prior to performing the pre-due diligence on the acquisition target,~~ the acquisition integration project plan includes the user selected integration events and the automatically selected integration events to be performed as part of the acquisition including the integration events to be performed during the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the due diligence phase of the acquisition process, the post sign/pre-close phase of the acquisition process, the post close phase of the acquisition process, and the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process, the acquisition integration project plan outlines the integration events to be performed in a recommended sequential order from the pre-due diligence phase of the acquisition process through the transition to operations phase of the acquisition process.

75. (original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 74 wherein the computer is further controlled to:

receive user defined integration areas and user defined integration events; and

incorporate the user defined integration areas and user defined integration events into the generated acquisition integration plan.

76. (original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 74 wherein the computer is further controlled to display the generated acquisition integration plan in at least one of a spreadsheet format and a web page format.

77. (original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 74 wherein the computer is further controlled to store user feedback on said medium.

78. (original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 74 wherein the computer is further controlled to:

group integration events for at least one integration area under headings of at least one of pre-due diligence, due diligence, post sign/pre-close, post close and transition to operations; and

receive a completion percentage for each heading for each integration area.

79. (original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 78 wherein the computer further controlled to display the completion percentages for all integration areas within an acquisition integration project plan in a spreadsheet format.